

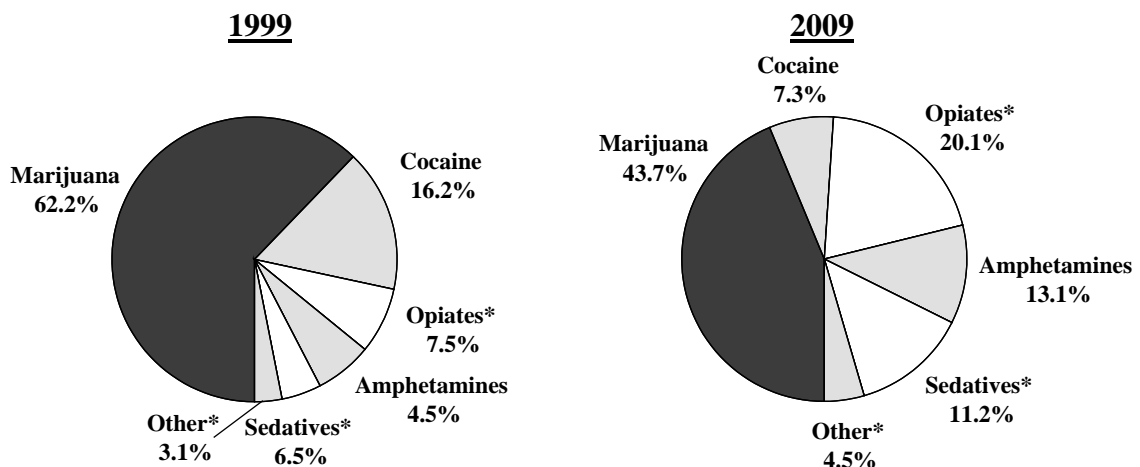
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Percentage of Positive Employee Drug Tests Containing Marijuana and Cocaine Decreases; Sedatives, Amphetamines, and Opiates Increases

In 2009, Quest Diagnostics conducted drug tests on more than 5.5 million urine samples collected from workers across the nation. According to the most recent drug testing index, 3.6% of all tests conducted in 2009 were positive for at least one illicit drug. Marijuana continues to be the drug most frequently detected. However, the percentage of positives for marijuana has decreased significantly over the past 10 years, from 62.2% of all drug positives in 1999 to 43.7% in 2009. The percentage of cocaine positives also decreased in the last decade, from 16.2% to 7.3% of all drug positives. In contrast, the percentage of positives for sedatives nearly doubled (from 6.5% to 11.2%), while those for amphetamines and opiates nearly tripled (from 4.5% to 13.1% and 7.5% to 20.1%, respectively).

Drugs Detected in Positive Urine Tests Among U.S. Workers, 1999 and 2009



*The category "opiates" comprises methadone, propoxyphene, oxycodone, and other opiates. The category "sedatives" comprises barbiturates and benzodiazepines. The category "other" comprises PCP, acid/base, oxidizing adulterants, substituted urines, and invalid specimens.

NOTES: This data is from workers employed by companies that use Quest Diagnostics' drug testing services, including federally mandated, safety-sensitive workers. Reasons for testing include pre-employment, periodic, random, post-accident, for-cause, and returned to duty.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Quest Diagnostics, "U.S. Worker Use of Prescription Opiates Climbing, Shows Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index," *News from Quest Diagnostics*, September 16, 2010 (Available online at http://www.questdiagnostics.com/employersolutions/dti/2010_09/dti_index.html); and Quest Diagnostics, "Drug Use in the General U.S. Workforce Increased in First Half of 2001, According to Quest Diagnostics' Drug Testing Index," *News from Quest Diagnostics*, November 30, 2001 (Available online at http://www.questdiagnostics.com/brand/business/dti_112001/b_bus_lab_emp_drugtesting_index.html). For more information, contact Barb Short at 973-520-2800.